

California Department of Community Services and Development

CSD

Department Overview



(916) 341-4200
www.csd.ca.gov

OVERVIEW

The Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) partners with a statewide network of local community services providers (both public and private nonprofit organizations) dedicated to assisting low-income Californians becoming self sufficient.

CSD administers California's share of the following federal programs:

- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Program
- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- U.S. Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program (DOE WAP)
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program

CSD also administers a State funded Naturalization Services Program (NSP), a U.S. Department of Justice funded 18-month demonstration Prisoner Reentry Program, sponsors special antipoverty initiatives, provides in-house, low-income eligibility verification services for several California public and private utilities offering low-income rate discounts, and works closely with local grantees when a natural disaster strikes.

CSBG

CSBG is designed to provide a range of services to assist low-income families and individuals in attaining the skills, knowledge, and motivation necessary to achieve self-sufficiency. The program, through its grantees, provides low-income people with immediate life necessities such as food, shelter, and other unmet needs. CSBG funding also enables local community organizations to develop long range solutions to revitalize low-income communities, reduce poverty, and develop public/private sector partnerships. Services provided with CSBG dollars must contribute to the achievement of one or more of the following six goals:

- Low-income families and individuals become more self-sufficient;
- The conditions in which low-income families and individuals live are improved;
- Low-income families and individuals own a stake in their community;
- Partnerships among supporters and providers of services to low-income families and individuals are achieved;
- Agencies increase their capacity to achieve results;
- Low-income families and individuals achieve their potential by strengthening family and other supportive system.

LIHEAP

LIHEAP provides assistance to eligible low-income households to meet their immediate home heating and/or cooling needs. This is accomplished through the following program components:

- Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) provides financial assistance to eligible households to offset the costs of heating and/or cooling residential dwellings.
- Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP) provides assistance to low-income households that are in a crisis situation; such as those having received a 24- or 48-hour disconnect notice, or service termination by their utility company, or an energy-related crisis or life-threatening emergency exists within the applicant's household.
- Weatherization Program provides free weatherization services to reduce heating and cooling costs and improve the energy efficiency of homes, including attic insulation, weather-stripping, minor housing repairs, and related energy conservation measures.

DOE WAP

DOE WAP provides eligible households with services designed to improve the energy efficiency of their home, thereby reducing energy usage/costs, while safeguarding the health and safety of the household. Households are also educated on basic energy efficiency practices, and instructed on the proper use and maintenance of the measures installed. Typical weatherization measures may include: weather-stripping, insulation, caulking, water heater blankets, refrigerator replacement, electric water heater repair/replacement, heating and cooling system repair/replacement, compact fluorescent lamps, and thermostats.

LEAD-BASED PAINT HAZARD CONTROL PROGRAM

In response to the national problem of childhood lead poisoning from lead-based paint, the federal government has made grants available to States and local governments to evaluate cost-effective approaches to the problem in low-income privately owned housing.

Units that are pre-1978 and occupied by a child under the age of six are targeted for lead hazard control, and units that are occupied by an elevated blood level child are also eligible.

CSD contracts with four community-based and local government organizations to provide services in six targeted counties.

NATURALIZATION

The Naturalization Services Program is a State funded program that assists legal permanent residents in obtaining citizenship. Services include outreach, intake and assessment, citizenship application assistance, citizenship testing and interview preparation, and coordination with and referral to other naturalization organizations.

REDUCED RATE PROGRAM

CSD provides customer eligibility verification and program certification for Reduced Rate Programs (RRP) that are offered by utility companies. RRP's provide a 15% - 30% monthly discount on utility costs to eligible low-income customers.

PRISONER REENTRY PROGRAM

CSD was successful in its application for Department of Justice federal funding for the Prisoner Reentry Program, an 18 month demonstration program designed to show how prerelease planning and post release comprehensive services can reduce recidivism among ex-offenders. Three community-based grantees – California Human Development, Second Chance, and Alameda Community Action Program - will address barriers such as unemployment, lack of housing, and substance abuse issues in order to help former prisoners become stable productive members of their communities.

DISASTER PLANNING & RECOVERY

CSD works closely with its community providers to assist them with disaster preparedness and disaster recovery. In 2007, CSD funded 39 community based organizations to develop disaster preparedness plans, increase coordination with local government in disaster planning, and provide outreach and education to low-income residents.

CSD also makes every effort to assist community providers coping with the impact of natural disasters in low-income communities by making available special short term funding for emergency assistance and recovery efforts.

CONTACT US

If you would like more information about the department or any of its programs, please visit our website or feel free to contact us using the information below.

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